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April 4, 1917

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MEDITATIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER.

By ALBERT E. LONG.

PHILADELPHIA:
Printed for the Author.
1917.

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"I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways."

PSALM 119 : 15

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13.

Our Father

FATHER of infinite love and mercy, ever willing to hear and help His children. Guiding and protecting all who call upon Him out of a pure heart. Chastening in wisdom, and with the rod of mercy and compassion. Perfect in knowledge, power, and holiness. Present at all times and in all places. From everlasting to everlasting. Unto Him all things are known, and from Him nothing can be hid. The earth, the sea, the sky, and all created things, speak of His power and goodness. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Heavenly Father, give me a sense of Thy goodness and greatness, cast out from my heart all that is contrary to Thy will, and conform me to Thy likeness!

which art in heaven,

The Lord is enthroned in glory and majesty, attended by angels that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, worship before Him, giving thanks and praises unto His holy name. Abode of joy eternal, inheritance of God's children, where there are pleasures for evermore. There the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for Thy love and mercy toward me, for all the blessings Thou hast been pleased to bestow upon me, and for the promise Thou hast given to those who love Thee, of an eternal inheritance in Heaven!

Hallowed be thy name.

By these words we pray that the name of our Heavenly Father shall be held sacred. We are to esteem and reverence the name of our Father in Heaven, at all times and in all places, and give unto Him the honor due unto His name. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." It is our duty, as children of our Heavenly Father, to show to the world by our lives, that we are of the household of faith; and to so live, both in word and deed, that others shall be led to glorify and reverence the name of our Father in Heaven. Heavenly Father, does my daily life show forth Thy praise? Make me mindful of Thy goodness and mercy toward me, and help me to ever live to the honor of Thy name!

Thy kingdom come.

The kingdom of God is a kingdom of righteousness and truth, in which the children of our Heavenly Father have an interest. We are not only to pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, that the truths of the gospel may be spread throughout the earth, and that all mankind shall love and serve the Lord; but it is our duty to show forth its truths in our daily lives, and to help in the spread of the gospel, by giving of our time, talents, and means, as we are able. The Lord will require of us an account of what we have done with our talents. "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Heavenly Father, help me to be more earnest and faithful in Thy service! What have I done this day for the advancement of Thy kingdom?

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

The will of God is done willingly and gladly in Heaven. The children of God are not only to submit to God's will in all things, but they are also to do His will. The Christian life is a life of obedience and service. Whether in prosperity or adversity, God's children are to obey and serve Him; and in all things live according to His holy commandments. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Heavenly Father, Thy will be done in all things concerning me! Show me what Thou wouldest have me to do; teach me what Thou wouldest have me to say; lead me where Thou wouldest have me to go! Help me by Thy Holy Spirit to live at all times as in Thy sight!

Give us this day our daily bread.

As the Lord is interested in the welfare of His children, and is ever willing and able to help them; it is their duty and privilege to ask Him for those things that are needful for their welfare, and to pray that He will guide them in their earthly affairs. If our Heavenly Father feeds the fowls of the air, and clothes the lilies of the field; will He not much more hear and answer His children, when they call upon Him in the hour of need? We are not only to pray for those things that are needful for our temporal welfare, but for spiritual blessings as well, that we may grow in grace. Heavenly Father, guide and direct me in all things, and grant me those blessings, both temporal and spiritual, of which Thou seest I stand in need!

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God, and are dependent upon His love and mercy in the forgiveness and pardon of our sins. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." In this petition we are taught it is our duty, as children of our Father in Heaven, to forgive those who do us injury; and that we should hold no bitter thoughts against them. If we do not forgive our enemies, neither will our Heavenly Father forgive us our trespasses. Heavenly Father, forgive us for all the sins we have committed against Thee; cleanse our hearts from all malice, keep us from evil speaking, and help us to obey Thee in all things!

And lead us not into temptation,

Our Heavenly Father is ever willing to help His children in time of temptation; and they are to pray unto Him for grace when tempted, that they may be kept from sin. That they yield not to temptation, God's children are to abstain from all appearance of evil, shun evil companions, seek out the company and friendship of those who love God, and give earnest heed to the things that make for godliness, as daily prayer and reading from the Word of God. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Heavenly Father, guide me in all the journey of my pilgrimage, and grant me Thy grace in the hour of temptation, that I sin not against Thee!

but deliver us from evil:

We are in a world of sin and wickedness. Sorrow, sickness, pain, and death are about us on every side. But our Heavenly Father is ever present and able to protect and deliver His children from the evils that are in the world. "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." We have need to pray to our Father in Heaven, not only to deliver us from the evils that are in the world, but to deliver us from the snares and cunning of our adversary the devil, who goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Heavenly Father, guard and protect me from harm and danger, and from the wiles and assaults of the evil one! Strengthen my faith, and build me up in all godliness, that I may escape the fiery darts of the wicked!

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

By these words we give praise unto the name of our Heavenly Father; we acknowledge Him to be the Ruler of all, we declare our faith in His infinite power, and ascribe unto Him eternal glory and majesty. "The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all." Heavenly Father, I praise Thy most excellent name, and give thanks unto Thee for Thy love and mercy toward me; grant me Thy grace that I may live to the honor and glory of Thy name, use me in Thy service in the salvation of others and in the upbuilding of Thy kingdom, and receive me at last to Thyself in Heaven, through the merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

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